

**AMENDED CLAIMS**

[(received by the International Bureau on 16 August 2004 (16.08.04);  
original claims 1-18 replaced by new claims 1-18 (3 pages)]

1. A spinning toy comprising a pair of spaced disc  
bodies connected by a transverse shaft forming a gap  
5 therebetween, a string attached to a spindle wherein the  
spindle is coupled to the shaft in the gap such that the  
disc bodies can be spun relative to the string, and a  
release mechanism for uncoupling the spindle from the  
shaft while the toy is spinning thereby separating the  
10 string and spindle from the disc bodies.

2. The spinning toy claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
release mechanism protrudes radially from the  
circumference of one of the disc bodies and is activated  
15 to release the string from the shaft in response to a  
force on the release mechanism.

3. The spinning toy claimed in claim 1 or claim 2,  
wherein the string is affixed to a spindle through an  
20 aperture in the spindle.

4. The spinning toy claimed in any one of the preceding  
claims, wherein the release mechanism urges the shaft to  
move axially to release the spindle from the shaft and  
25 thereby allow the string to detach from the shaft.

5. The spinning toy claimed in claim 4, wherein one end  
of the shaft is spring mounted inside one of the disc  
bodies.

6. The spinning toy claimed in claim 4, wherein the  
spindle is captured between the disc bodies and held  
therebetween on the shaft, and whereby an axial movement  
of the shaft widens the gap between the disc bodies, hence  
35 releasing the spindle.

7. The spinning toy claimed in claim 6, wherein catches in the gap assist in holding the spindle on the shaft.

5 8. The spinning toy claimed in claim 4, wherein the shaft is provided with two different sized diameters, wherein the spindle is attached to the shaft at the larger diameter and axial movement of the shaft exposes the smaller diameter thereby allowing the spindle to detach from the shaft.

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9. The spinning toy claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the release mechanism includes a trigger protruding from the circumference of one of the disc bodies and a biased tab moveable in response to movement of the trigger, whereby movement of the tab releases the shaft to axial movement.

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10. The spinning toy claimed in claim 9, wherein the tab has an elongate or large round opening through which the biased shaft extends and is held therein.

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11. The spinning toy claimed in claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the trigger is a lever pivoted to the disc body containing the release mechanism.

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12. The spinning toy claimed in claim 11, wherein the trigger pivots approximately 90° in either direction from an extended position to a down position.

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13. The spinning toy claimed in any one of the preceding claims, further including a clutch engageable with the shaft that prevents axial movement of the shaft, and that disengages from the shaft, when the spinning toy achieves a predetermined centrifugal force.

14. The spinning toy claimed in claim 13, wherein the clutch is weighted and spring mounted to an interior circumference of a disc body.

5 15. The spinning toy claimed in claim 14, wherein the clutch is an elongate arm that is spring mounted to the interior circumference of the disc body at an approximate center of the arm and has a lug at an approximate center that engages with a complementary slot in the shaft such  
10 that the clutch releases the shaft when centrifugal forces cause the clutch to move toward the interior circumference.

16. The spinning toy claimed in claim 6, wherein the  
15 spindle is a part circular shape that encircles the shaft by approximately 180°.

17. The spinning toy claimed in claim 8, wherein the spindle is a part circular shape that encircles the larger  
20 diameter of the shaft by more than 180° but less than 360°.

18. A method of using a spinning toy having a pair of spaced disc bodies connected by a transverse shaft forming a gap therebetween, and a string attached to a spindle  
25 wherein the spindle is coupled to the shaft in the gap, the method including:

spinning the connected disc bodies relative to the string by unwinding the disc bodies from the string;

lowering the spinning disc bodies towards a surface  
30 to activate a release mechanism that releases the string from the shaft thereby separating the string and spindle from the disc bodies; and

retaining hold of the string while allowing the disc bodies to freely roll along a surface.

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